WHAT IS THE NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND?

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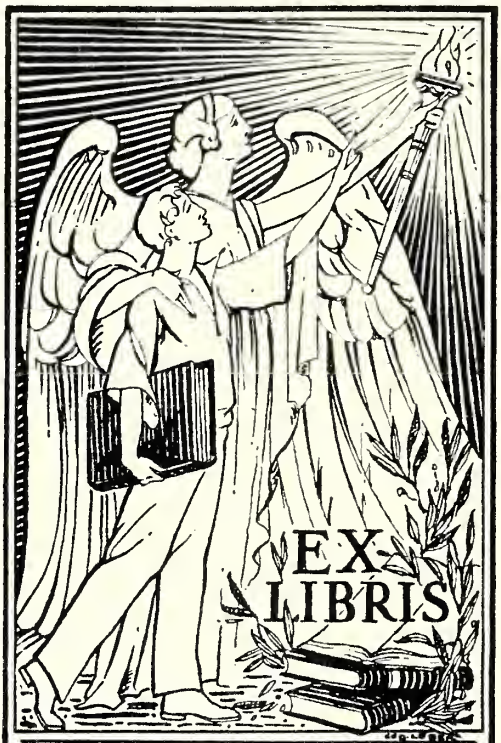

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What is the National Federation of the Blind?

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What is the National Federation of the Blind?

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What is the National Federation of the Blind?

The National Federation of the Blind is the only nation-wide organization of blind people in the United States. It was established in 1940 upon the principle that the blind themselves should unite and take leadership in solving common problems. No other agency or group can legitimately claim to speak for the blind men and women of this country. They are citizens, with the right to speak for themselves through their own organization.

What is the Philosophy of the National Federation of the Blind?

The Federation believes: (1) that blind people are essentially normal people and that blindness in itself is not a mental or psychological handicap. It is merely a physical nuisance; (2) legal, economic, and social discriminations based upon the false assumption that blind people are somehow different from sighted people must be abolished, and equality of opportunity must be made available to the blind; (3) because of their personal experience with blindness, the blind themselves are best qualified to lead the way in solving their own problems; but, (4) the general public should be made aware of those problems and should be asked to participate in their solution. It is upon these fundamentals that the National Federation of the Blind predicates its philosophy.

What is the Internal Structure of the National Federation of the Blind?

As the name implies, the organization is nation-wide, it is a federation, and it is primarily composed of blind people. The pattern of organization varies somewhat from state to state, but in general it is as follows:

A group of adult blind people in a particular locality (a county or perhaps a city) come together and form an organization. They elect officers, write a constitution, and begin to hold regular meetings, usually monthly. There is no definite uniformity of name for

these local groups, but they are generally called The..... County *Association* (or sometimes *Club* or *Chapter*) of Adult Blind.

All of these local groups combine to make up a state organization. Again, there is no definite uniformity of name, but the following are typical: The Illinois Federation of the Blind, The Ohio Council of the Blind, and The Washington State Association of the Blind. These state organizations hold annual conventions, at which they elect officers and boards of directors.

The state organizations combine to make up the National Federation of the Blind, which holds a four-day annual convention, usually during July. Every member of each local group is automatically a member of the state organization and also of the National Federation, with the right to serve on committees, speak on the floor, and hold office; but in the national conventions voting is not done on an individual basis. Each state is entitled to one vote on any question.

The national officers of the Federation—a president, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer—are elected for two-year terms by a majority vote of the states at the national convention. These officers, together with eleven other elected members, constitute the Federation's board of directors. The board, whose members are usually officers in their respective state organizations, is widely representative of the blind of the nation.

The national convention is the governing body of the National Federation of the Blind. The convention is organized upon a democratic basis, all important policies of the organization being there decided after fair opportunity for all to be heard. The Executive Committee of the Federation is the governing body between conventions. However, since all important policies are decided by the convention, the executive committee has little work to do and little need to meet. Such actions as it does take are generally handled by mail ballot, except when it meets at the time of the national convention. The president of the National Federation is the executive of the organization. He presides at conventions, appoints committees, supervises the implementation of the policy decisions reached by the conventions, hires, fires and assigns duties to such persons as are employed as staff and generally coordinates and oversees the work of committees, other officers and members of the organization.

Are There Organizations of the Blind in Every State?

No, but the number is increasing rapidly. When the Federation was established in 1940, there were only seven affiliated state organizations. There are now forty-two. The Federation has individual members in every unorganized state.

Do the Officers or Board Members of the Federation Receive Financial Compensation for Their Services?

The officers and board members of the Federation do not receive any financial compensation for their services. The organization hires a certain number of blind as well as sighted staff, but these people do not serve as officers or board members. This distinction between elected leadership and staff is an important principle of the Federation. Thus decisions of the board truly represent the blind of the nation and not a vested interest.

May Sighted People Become Members of the National Federation of the Blind?

Yes. Many of the most valuable members of the National Federation are sighted persons. It is, however, true that in order for a local or state organization to continue in good standing its president, its vice-presidents, and a majority of its board of directors and of its voting members must be blind, but interested sighted persons are urged and requested to join.

Are All of the National Officers and Board Members of the Federation Blind?

Yes.

How Many Members Does the National Federation of the Blind Currently Have?

Since the Federation is the combined membership of all the state and local organizations of the blind throughout the country,

no exact answer to this question can be given, but the best available figures indicate that the Federation now has almost forty thousand members.

Radio, Television, and Newspapers Sometimes Refer to Other Organizations Than the Federation as "National Blind Groups." What Significance Does This Have, and Are There Really Other National Organizations of the Blind?

The significance of such statements is merely to emphasize the widespread lack of information existing among the public today concerning the blind and their problems. The National Federation of the Blind is the only nation-wide organization of blind people in the United States. It is the blind speaking for themselves. No other group can legitimately claim to represent them.

What Are Organizations *for* the Blind, and How Do They Differ from Organizations *of* the Blind?

There are in the United States today many organizations *for* the blind. They are usually public or private agencies doing work for the blind, or organizations sponsored by civic or religious groups to carry on welfare or recreational programs for the blind – rehabilitation agencies, guide dog schools, sheltered workshops, social work agencies, and so on. There are also organizations made up of the professional workers from these agencies, several of which are national or regional in scope.

Although they often render valuable and badly needed services, obviously such organizations cannot really speak for the blind but only for their respective agencies or programs. They very often contain many sincere people, who work devotedly for the good of the blind; and they quite frequently give expression to a philosophy of equality, independence and self-support for the blind; but there are strong counterforces in all of these organizations. The protection and promotion of the vested interests of agencies and the safeguarding of individual jobs and programs are ever-present factors. The agencies can continue to exist only so long as blind people are

dependent on their services. There is thus a basic contradiction of the principle of the independence of the blind.

A prime example of this contradiction can be found in a statement made by the executive director of one of the largest private agencies doing work for the blind in this country. This agency head recently said: "A job, a home, and the *right* to be a *citizen, will come* to the blind in that generation when *each* and *every* blind person is a living advertisement of his ability and capacity to accept the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. Then we *professionals* will have no problem of *interpretation* because the *blind will no longer need us to speak for them,* and we, like primitive segregation will die away as an instrument which society will include only in its historical records." (Italics added.)

The National Federation of the Blind believes that the blind are citizens *now.* The blind are an average cross-section of society, exactly like other people except that they cannot see. They are citizens under the Constitution of the United States and are entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens. They are not so different that they require professional social workers to *interpret* their needs to the community or to *speak for them.* The blind have the right to speak for themselves through their own organization and no other group—regardless of how well meaning—has the right to presume to speak for them.

Do Organizations *for* the Blind Have Blind Members?

They usually contain at least a few blind members, often in key positions, but this does not alter their nature or make them less willing to defend their vested interests.

Are Blind Staff Members of Agencies Doing Work for the Blind Eligible for Membership in the National Federation?

Yes. Since the Federation is for all blind people, blind staff members of agencies doing work for the blind are welcomed. Some of the Federation's most loyal members are agency employees. They recognize the fact that the agencies for which they work—or which they sometimes head—cannot speak for the blind, but that

they as individual blind people have the right and duty to make their voices heard in the national organization of the blind. When they do so, they are speaking as individual blind persons and not as representatives of their agencies.

What is the Ultimate Goal of the National Federation of the Blind?

The ultimate goal of the Federation is the complete integration of the blind into society on a basis of equality. This involves the removal of legal, economic, and social discriminations; the education of the public to new concepts concerning blindness; and the achievement by each and every blind person of the right to exercise to the full his individual talents and capacities. It means the right of the blind to work along with their sighted fellows in the professions, common callings, skilled trades, and regular occupations.

What is the Federation Doing Toward the Achievement of This Goal?

The Federation is working toward the achievement of this goal through many programs and projects. In general its activities may be divided into three broad areas of endeavor: legal, public education, and organizational and individual work with blind people.

What Does the Federation Do in the Legal Area?

Constructive legislation is proposed and supported at all levels of government, and constant efforts are made to repeal or modify laws which discriminate against the blind. The Federation maintains a full-time, permanent spokesman in Washington, D.C.

In addition to legislation the Federation does other work in the legal area. Federal, state, and local laws and regulations concerning programs for the blind are studied; and blind individuals are informed of services available to them and of their rights under the law. A consultative service is maintained to assist state and federal administrators in setting up or re-evaluating programs for the

blind, and test cases are sponsored in the courts to promote and establish the rights of the blind.

What Does the Federation Do in the Area of Public Education?

Many people still consider the blind to be a helpless and dependent class, unable to compete with their sighted fellows in regular trades and professions, and requiring shelter and care. This view is commonly held by employers—public and private—by welfare workers, by administrators of programs for the blind, and by the man in the street.

The Federation seeks to eradicate this view and to replace it with one that pictures the blind as they actually are—normal people with varying aptitudes and abilities. To accomplish this objective the Federation issues a continuous stream of information and analysis:

Speeches about the nature of blindness are made on radio and television. News items dealing with the accomplishments of individual blind people are released to the press. Federation reports investigating and evaluating programs for the blind are made public and explained. Annual conventions are fully used to publicize the significant achievements of the blind. Scholarly research and publications dealing with the problems of the blind are supported and conducted by the Federation.

On all these fronts the Federation seeks to educate the public, an undertaking of far greater importance than any other of its programs or activities, an undertaking the success of which determines the ultimate success of the Federation. The process of public education may be, and often is, slow and difficult; but in the end it is translated into jobs for blind people and into their eventual social and economic integration.

What is the Federation Doing in the Area of Organizational and Individual Work With Blind People?

Public attitudes about the blind too often become the attitudes of the blind. The blind tend to see themselves as others see them.

They too often accept the public view of their limitations and thus do much to make those limitations a reality.

If the blind are to achieve their ultimate goal of complete integration into society on a basis of equality, the blind person's conviction of his own incompetence, accepted from the public misconception, must be uprooted. To the accomplishment of this end the Federation directs a major portion of its activity.

A constant stream of information is sent out from Federation headquarters to the blind. They are told of changes in state and federal programs for the blind, of newly opening fields of employment, of significant accomplishments made by other blind people and of organizational matters. State and national conventions are used to disseminate facts and to exchange information and ideas.

In addition, the Federation seeks to contact newly blind persons and to give them help with problems of adjustment, acquaint them with available services, and show them by actual example that blindness need not mean dependence but is only a physical nuisance. Federation representatives travel to all parts of the country to work with local blind groups and to help form new organizations. When the rights of blind persons are threatened, the Federation conducts legal appeals and furnishes other assistance. As a result of Federation activity, blind people have been helped in getting scholarships, securing business loans, and overcoming discrimination in home loans and insurance. Officers and members of the Federation, within the limits of their time and available resources, aid individual blind persons in preparing for and finding remunerative employment.

What Are Some of the Typical Projects and Activities of the Federation?

Four good examples would be the Colorado Investigation, the Civil Service Story, the Report Concerning the Employment of the Blind in the Teaching Profession, and the Nevada Story.

What Was the Colorado Investigation?

In May of 1955 the National Federation of the Blind received a request from Governor Edwin C. Johnson to make a survey of all

programs for the blind in Colorado. Since it had long been a matter of common knowledge that programs for the blind in that state were so poorly organized and managed as to accomplish almost nothing, the Federation gladly offered its assistance.

A team of Federation representatives went to Colorado and made a complete study of its services to the blind—rehabilitation, public assistance, vending stands, home industries, sheltered workshops, and education. As a result a complete revision of state programs was set in motion. New personnel was procured for the rehabilitation department; the income of blind vending stand operators was increased, and they were promised the right to buy their stock and equipment and to operate as independent businessmen; and the blind of the state were reorganized and strengthened.

In a letter made public to the press, Governor Johnson thanked the Federation team for their outstanding work and said: "I appreciate the comprehensive, bold and challenging report on the problems of the blind in Colorado . . . . I expect to give this report long and careful study because I can see in it guidance for Colorado to overcome the bad situations which have bogged down our efforts to give these handicapped people an opportunity to serve and to earn . . . ."

Because of the failure of the administrator of services for the blind in Colorado to follow through on the Federation's recommendations and to carry out programs agreed upon, progress has been slower than might have been expected and, in fact, has almost come to a complete stop; but in view of Governor Johnson's warm endorsement of the survey, it is unlikely that he will long tolerate the present administrative frustration and negation of his announced goals.

What is the Civil Service Story?

Before 1948, the blind were systematically excluded from taking Federal Civil Service examinations. In that year the Federation succeeded in getting Congress to pass a law that blind persons could not be denied the right to take such examinations unless in the discretion of the Federal Civil Service Commission sight was absolutely indispensable to the performance of the duties of the jobs in question. The Civil Service Commission evaded the spirit

of this law by declaring in effect that sight was indispensable to all jobs in the Federal Service, and the blind continued to be excluded.

In 1950, as the result of a mistake made by a regional office, a blind lawyer named Russell Kletzing was permitted to take an examination, which he passed. Some weeks later officials in the Washington office discovered the mistake and removed Kletzing's name from the list, on the ground that sight was indispensable to the performance of the job in question. In the meantime Kletzing had been employed to do exactly the same job by another branch of the Federal Government not covered by Civil Service, a job at which he has demonstrated very successful performance.

Because of the obvious discrimination involved and the implication for future blind applicants seeking Civil Service positions, the Federation took this case to court and asked that the Commission be ordered to restore Kletzing's name to the register. A list of more than one hundred successfully practicing blind lawyers was collected, and the Federation had every prospect of winning its case.

Then, four days before the trial date, the Commission abolished the entire register and asked the court to dismiss the case on the ground that it was now a moot question, since Kletzing's name could not be restored to a register which no longer existed. The court decided in favor of the Commission, and the case was dismissed. The Federation then appealed to a higher court but in 1953 the case was again dismissed.

The Federation did not lose its battle, however; for so much publicity had been given to the case, and so much congressional interest had been aroused that the Civil Service Commission found it necessary to make concessions. In the fall of 1953 the Commission announced that one Civil Service examination would be open to the blind, the Junior Management Assistant examination. Since this is probably the hardest examination given by Federal Civil Service (the qualifications are exceedingly high, and only five per cent of the applicants customarily pass), there was some speculation as to the Commission's motives. If no blind person could qualify or if none could pass, the Commission could say that its longstanding argument was proved.

The Federation sent announcements and bulletins to the blind all over the nation, urging them to make application and take the examination. The test was given late in 1953. Of the sighted who

took the examination three per cent passed. Of the blind who took the examination six per cent passed.

In 1954 the Federation began to work with the Civil Service Commission to draw up plans for opening many categories to the blind, in trades as well as in professions; and several blind people were employed as a result. Even so, it was necessary to launch a new appeal late in 1954.

A blind chemist, named Richard Wilburn, had his name placed on the Federal Civil Service rolls, and then his name was removed from the register, solely on the grounds of his blindness. The Federation appealed to the Civil Service Commission. In the meantime, as in the Kletzing case, Wilburn had secured a job, doing exactly the things which the Commission had said that a blind man could not do. He was employed as a research chemist at the Morse Laboratories in Sacramento, California.

Late in 1955, the Commission reversed its stand and returned Wilburn's name to the register. On March 5, 1956, he was employed under civil service by the Army Chemical Corps to do research chemistry at the Military Proving Grounds at Dugway, Utah.

The battle is still not won, but the Federation is gradually winning for the blind the right to be considered as individuals and not merely rejected as an inferior class.

I Am a Blind Person. I Have Never Applied for a Civil Service Job, and I Have No Intention of Applying for One. Am I Benefited by the Federation's Action With Regard to Civil Service?

Yes. You are benefited directly—even if you have employment, and are totally unaware of the Federation. Every time any blind person gets a regular, competitive job, the general level of public attitudes toward the blind is raised. The almost universal feeling that the blind are helpless and dependent is diminished. All of the standard prejudices and misconceptions – that the blind are gifted with special powers, that all blind people are musical, that they are unusually religious, that they deserve pity, that they are inspirational, are weakened; and the truth about blindness is

once again emphasized—the truth that blind people are not mysterious or different but are simply normal people who cannot see.

Did you ever enter a room and have a hush come over the crowd? Was the person with you ever asked, "Does he take cream in his coffee?" Were you ever practically lifted on or off a bus? Has anyone ever avoided the word "see" in your presence? Have you ever been treated as if you were a child or had people shout when addressing you? Not only are these social discriminations but they are also symptoms of the public attitudes about blindness, and every blind person has experienced many of them.

When the Federation collected a list of over 100 successfully practicing blind lawyers in this country; when it publicized the fact that such a list had been collected; when it sponsored and publicized the Kletzing and Wilburn cases; and, finally, when Kletzing and Wilburn were actually employed, every blind person was benefited.

1. The people who come into contact with Kletzing and Wilburn on their jobs will learn from first-hand experience of the normality of the blind, and the attitudes acquired will be passed on to friends.

2. Other blind people have been and will be hired in civil service as a result of Federation activity, and the process of public education will be repeated and magnified.

3. Labor leaders, employers, and the man on the street will come to know and be affected by the fact that the blind are filling new jobs.

It is in this way that the legal, social, and economic discriminations and the symptoms to which they give rise, will be eliminated. The Federation's action with regard to civil service has benefited every blind person. It has benefited you.

What is the Report Concerning the Employment of the Blind in the Teaching Profession?

Before 1945 the blind of California were systematically rejected as applicants for teaching credentials. Form 41-C, issued by the California Commission of Credentials, required that sight in the better eye should be at least 20/40 with no evidence of progressive loss.

In 1945 the California Council for the Blind, the Federation's state affiliate, secured passage of a law providing that no person otherwise qualified could be denied the right to receive credentials on the ground that he was totally or partially blind. In 1949 the state university cited the language of Form 41-C, which was still being used, as the reason for attempting to prevent the certification of a blind applicant. When the Federation protested, the Commission replied that the forms then in use had been printed prior to 1945, but that as soon as the current stock was exhausted, new forms not containing the illegal language would be printed.

In 1953 the California Council appointed a committee to study all aspects of the employment of the blind in the teaching profession. School officials throughout the state were contacted, and statistics were gathered from all parts of the nation. The committee made its final report in April of 1955. The following things were learned:

1. Form 41-C was still in use in 1955.
2. No blind people were employed as regular elementary or secondary teachers in California at the time of the report.
3. In many other states blind people are teaching successfully in regular public school classes. Ohio alone has thirteen.
4. Most school officials in California do not know that the blind can be credentialed or that they are capable of teaching in regular classes, but many of them express a willingness to approach the matter with open minds.

Many things have resulted from this report. It has been circulated widely throughout the country and thus has been the means of considerable public education. Steps are being taken to compel the credentials commission to revise Form 41-C and blind students are being informed of the success of blind teachers throughout the country. Most important of all, there is concrete evidence that the barriers are actually beginning to crumble, for at least three blind teachers were employed to do regular teaching in the public schools of California for the school year 1955–56.

What is the Nevada Story?

Before 1953 the blind of Nevada were almost completely unorganized. There was a small club in Las Vegas, led by Marion Keele, an able and devoted blind veteran of World War I. There

were few state programs for the blind. Public assistance, particularly, was administered on a very meager basis.

In 1951 the National Federation of the Blind began to work cooperatively with Mr. Keele. Organizational activity among the blind of Nevada was set in motion. A chapter was formed in Reno, and a state-wide association was organized, which became an affiliate of the Federation. Efforts were undertaken to improve public assistance legislation. A model statute was drafted by the officers of the Federation, and Marion Keele procured its introduction into the Nevada Legislature. Mr. Keele and representatives of the national office of the Federation appeared before committees of the State Legislature and otherwise explained the measure to senators and assemblymen. Finally the bill was enacted, virtually as introduced. Governor Russell, who had been interested in the bill earlier and who had participated in its passage through the Legislature, signed it in a public ceremony in which full recognition was given to the part played by the organized blind.

Since its passage this public assistance legislation has been well administered according to its constructive and generous spirit by Nevada's State Director of Public Welfare, Mrs. Barbara Coughlan, who has continuously consulted and worked with the organized blind movement. In fact, Nevada provides a fine example of just how much can be accomplished by such cooperative action.

I Am a Blind Person. I Do Not Live in Nevada. Am I Benefited by the Federation's Work in Nevada?

Yes. You are benefited by the Federation's work in Nevada in the same way that you are benefited by the Federation's action with regard to civil service. The same is also true, of course, with regard to the Colorado investigation, the report concerning the blind in the teaching profession, and the various other projects of the Federation.

How Does the National Federation of the Blind Finance Its Activities?

The Federation must exercise extreme care in raising funds, for it promotes the very misconceptions it is trying to defeat if people

give money for its support out of pity or because they think the blind are helpless. The Federation has three principal means of raising money: Dues from its affiliated state organizations and individual members, National White Cane Week, and a mass mail appeal including the use of seals and a greeting card campaign.

What Are the Dues of the National Federation of the Blind?

Each affiliated state organization pays $10 a year for each million or major fraction of a million of state population. Thus if a state has 2,600,000 people, the dues of the affiliate in that state will be $30 a year. Individual members of affiliated state organizations do not pay dues directly to the national office.

Blind persons in states which do not have a Federation affiliate may join the Federation individually. The dues are $1.00 per year. Blind persons in states which have affiliates must join their state organizations if they wish to become members of the National Federation.

What is National White Cane Week?

The third week in May of each year is set aside by the blind as National White Cane Week. It is a week of education and of fund-raising. During this time the community at large is informed through radio, television, newspapers, speeches, and personal appearances of what the blind are achieving, and of their hopes and aspirations. The general public is asked to join with the Federation in making the blind "tax producers instead of tax consumers." They are asked for a "hand *up,* not a hand *out.*" Letters and descriptive material about the Federation are also mailed.

White Cane Week is largely conducted by the state organizations. Half of the proceeds from each state customarily go to the national office. White Cane Week was inaugurated in 1947.

Why Was the White Cane Chosen as the Symbol of the Federation's Educational and Fund Raising Week?

The White Cane symbolizes the independence of the blind. With a cane a blind person can travel by himself anywhere he

pleases. Without this ability to travel he cannot go to and from a job. He cannot be truly self-supporting.

What is White Cane Day, and Is It Sponsored by the Federation?

White Cane Week is not to be confused with White Cane Day. The latter is used as a time of fund raising by many Lions Clubs throughout the country. The one exception to this is Minnesota where the Minnesota Organization of Blind has conducted a White Cane Day for the past fifteen years. The Lions' White Cane Day is not established on a national basis nor is it conducted with the approval of the National Federation of the Blind. The money thus raised is devoted to projects for the blind which the Lions deem to be helpful. The National Federation and its affiliates do not customarily share in the proceeds collected on White Cane Days, nor do they ordinarily share in the determination of the projects supported by those proceeds. In at least one case, the Lions cooperate with a local blind group in its fund raising activities. The Lions of Southern Nevada actively and devotedly work with the local chapter of the Nevada Federation of the Blind in carrying on the White Cane Week Campaign.

What is the Federation's Greeting Card Campaign?

In 1953 the Federation inaugurated a fund raising and educational campaign involving the mailing on approval of greeting cards from a central state's office. These cards are sent all over the United States. Each state organization has the right to determine whether greeting cards will be mailed into its state. Proceeds are divided equally between the national office and the organizations in participating states.

Each box of greeting cards contains descriptive material about the Federation. This material is prepared by the Federation's officers and maintains the same high standards that are employed in White Cane Week.

I Am a Blind Person. Why Should I Join the National Federation of the Blind and Support its Activities?

Collectively the blind can achieve goals which they can never reach as individuals. If there had been no Federation there could have been no Civil Service Story, no Colorado Investigation, no report concerning the employment of the blind in the teaching profession, no Nevada Story, no effective voice in legislation for the blind, no White Cane Week and only a very limited amount of constructive public education concerning blindness. Without a Federation public assistance for the blind would be even less adequate than it is, rehabilitation would be more limited; and far fewer blind people would be employed. As a blind person you have benefited in many ways from the activities of the Federation even if you have never heard of the organization.

If there is a local affiliate of the Federation in your area, you should join it. It may be weak, it may be strong. Its members may be well-informed and actively working to promote the interests of the blind; they may be almost totally uninformed and meeting primarily for coffee and cake. Its activities may be entirely constructive, or they may be almost non-existent. At times they may be even unintentionally harmful to the best interests of the blind. Its meetings may be interesting; they may be dull. The case is not altered. As a blind person you have a responsibility to join and to work in the organization.

If you do not join, your voice is not heard. In effect, you give someone who holds an opposite view two votes, and you weaken the entire Federation by one member. The organization is denied the benefit of your knowledge, your effort, and your support; you continue to reap the rewards of its work and to be represented by it without a voice in its affairs.

If the organization in your community is good, you should join and support it. If it is weak or bad, you should join and help to make it better. If there is no organization in your community, you should seek out other blind people and help to form one. If there are no other blind people in your community, you should write to Federation headquarters and join the organization individually.

I Am a Parent of a Blind Child. Should I Join the Federation?

Your child's future is affected by every activity and decision of the Federation. It is working for his future as well as for the good of the blind of this generation. If you help remove legal, economic and social discriminations against the blind now, his future will be filled with more opportunities. His chances of success will be better.

I Am an Ordinary Citizen in the Community. Is There Any Reason Why I Should Support the Federation?

You will certainly be helping in a worthwhile cause, and you will also probably learn a great deal about blindness and its problems. You will likely find that you have a great many misconceptions about what blindness involves and what its limitations really are. By helping the blind to achieve their ultimate goal you will be helping to swell the ranks of the nation's taxpayers and to reduce the number of its tax consumers. You will be helping to open a new reservoir of potential talent and ability for contribution to the betterment of our way of life.

How Can I Learn Whether There is a Local Organization of the Blind in My Community or Get More Information About the National Federation or Some Other Problem Concerning Blindness?

You may write to:

Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, *President*
National Federation of the Blind
2652 Shasta Road
Berkeley 8, California

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WHAT IS THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND?

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